

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2006

The Honorable Mitt Romney  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State House, Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Romney:

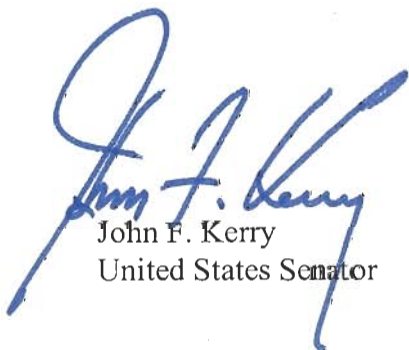
We are writing to urge you to immediately request a federal disaster declaration for the flooded communities in the Commonwealth. Yesterday, we had the opportunity to tour the affected communities, and after seeing the damage firsthand and talking with local officials it is clear that our cities and towns do not have the resources to deal with such severe flooding.

We understand that the Commonwealth has not yet begun to make specific damage assessments that generally precipitate a request for a federal disaster declaration. It is clear, however, that the damage caused by the flooding will far exceed the minimum requirements for federal assistance, and we think this justifies your immediate action. Hundreds of Essex and Middlesex County residents have already been evacuated from their homes, and emergency management personnel are stretched thin.

In addition, we urge you to seek a declaration from the Small Business Administration (SBA) for small businesses and homeowners impacted by the flooding. Although the SBA's disaster loan program will be triggered automatically if the President issues a disaster declaration, we should take every precaution to ensure that small business owners and homeowners have access to the capital necessary to rebuild their lives.

This is the worst flooding we have seen in Massachusetts during our time in public office, and possibly the worst in the Commonwealth's history. We therefore request that you expedite your request for a federal disaster declaration to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and help our constituents get the assistance they need.

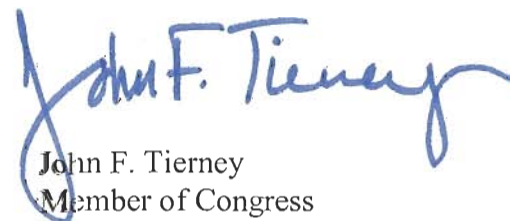
Sincerely,



John F. Kerry  
United States Senator



Marty Meehan  
Member of Congress



John F. Tierney  
Member of Congress